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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

No, there haven't been 18 school shootings in 2018.

By John Woodrow Cox and Steven Rich, February 15, 2018

The stunning number swept across the Internet within minutes of the news Wednesday that, yet again, another young man with another semiautomatic rifle had rampaged through a school, this time at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Florida.

The figure originated with Everytown for Gun Safety, a nonprofit group, co-founded by Michael Bloomberg, that works to prevent gun violence and is most famous for its running tally of school shootings.

"This," the organization tweeted, "is the 18th school shooting in the U.S. in 2018."

It is a horrifying statistic. And it is wrong.

Everytown has long inflated its total by including incidents of gunfire that are not really school shootings. Take, for example, the year's first: On Jan. 3, a man parked outside a Michigan elementary school killed himself. The school, however, had been closed for seven months. There were no teachers. There were no students.

Everytown explains on its website that it defines a school shooting as "any time a firearm discharges a live round inside a school building or on a school campus or grounds."

Sarah Tofte, Everytown's research director, calls the definition "crystal clear," noting that "every time a gun is discharged on school grounds it shatters the sense of safety" for students, parents and the community.

The figures matter because gun-control activists use them as evidence in their fight for bans on

assault weapons, stricter background checks and other legislation. Gun rights groups seize on the faults in the data to undermine those arguments and, similarly, present skewed figures of their own.

Gun violence is a crisis in the United States, especially for children. An ongoing Washington Post analysis has found that more than 150,000 students attending at least 170 primary or secondary schools have experienced a shooting on campus since the Columbine High School massacre in 1999.

Just five of Everytown's 18 school shootings listed for 2018 happened during school hours and resulted in any physical injury. Three others appeared to be intentional shootings but did not hurt anyone. Two more involved guns — one carried by a school police officer and the other by a licensed peace officer — that were unintentionally fired and, again, led to no injuries. At least seven of Everytown's 18 shootings took place outside normal school hours.

"Since 2013," the organization says on its website, "there have been nearly 300 school shootings in America — an average of about one a week."

In 2015, *The Post's* Fact Checker awarded the group's figures — invoked by Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) — four Pinocchios for misleading methodology.

Another database, the Gun Violence Archive, defines school shootings in much narrower terms, considering only those that take place during school hours or extracurricular activities.

Yet many journalists rely on Everytown's data. *Post* media critic Erik Wemple included the 18 figure in a

column Wednesday night, and Michael Barbaro, host of the New York *Times'* podcast "The Daily," used the number to punctuate the end of his Thursday show.

What is not in dispute is gun violence's pervasiveness and its devastating impact on children. A recent study of World Health Organization data published in the *American Journal of Medicine* that found that, among high-income nations, 91 percent of children younger than 15 who were killed by bullets lived in the United States.

And the trends are only growing more dire.

On average, two dozen children are shot every day in the United States, and in 2016 more youths were killed by gunfire — 1,637 — than during any previous year this millennium.

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www.washingtonpost.com

Background Checks Are Not the Answer to Gun Violence

By John R. Lott Jr., February 12, 2018

With each mass shooting, there are calls for tighter rules on firearms. The go-to policy prescription is background checks. But a measure passed by the House to expand the National Instant Criminal Background Check System would not only fail to fix flaws in the system but would also probably introduce new ones.

Last November a man killed 26 people at a church in Sutherland Springs, Tex. The killer had been convicted of domestic violence in 2012 while in the Air Force and involuntarily committed to a mental health care center. Yet the Air Force failed to report his conviction to federal law enforcement, which allowed him to

pass the check. The military has failed to report other such cases.

The measures before Congress aim to improve existing law by imposing financial penalties on government officials whose agencies fail to provide required information. That's a good goal, but any proposal should also fix the false positives problem that stops law-abiding people from getting weapons that they might need to protect themselves.

The background check system confuses the names of law-abiding individuals with those of criminals, resulting in thousands of "false positives" every year....

Between 2006 to 2010, the last period for which more comprehensive annual data on the denial of firearm applications by the background check system are available, there were 377,283 denials. But the federal government prosecuted only 460 of those cases, leading to 209 convictions, mostly on charges of providing false information. There was a small number of state prosecutions resulting from the gun purchase denials....

The system also does a poor job of accounting for people who have had their rights to buy a firearm taken away and then restored. In the 1990s, Frank Wise of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., was convicted of check fraud after his employer went bankrupt. When his paycheck bounced, two checks he sent to his mortgage company also bounced. 19 years later, after \$3600 in legal fees, he was able to get his record cleared, but that information wasn't entered into the background check system for three years.

Even more people would face such problems if background checks were made "universal," meaning to include the private sale or transfer of firearms, which are exempt from checks in most states. Many people consider this a common-sense policy, but there would be a cost: Background checks involve fees that drive up the price of guns in private sales and make it harder for poor people to defend themselves.

To get some idea of what background checks add to the price of a weapon, in New York City and Washington, fees cost at least \$125 for private gun sales....

So what should be done when the background check system fails to stop mass killers from attacking? One answer is to have more civilians carry permitted concealed handguns. Those law-abiding gun

owners can help protect places where there are no police. In 2013, PoliceOne, a news and resource site for active and retired law enforcement officers, released a survey finding that over 91 percent of the more than 15,000 "verified law enforcement professionals" who responded supported concealed carry.

We do need to fix the background check system. But let's really fix it. Let's also make sure that the government stops preventing law-abiding citizens from buying guns for protection.

-- www.newyorktimes.com/opinion

John Lott's Anti-Background Check NY Times Editorial Is a Dangerous Squib

By Robert Farago

Americans' right to keep and bear arms does not depend on arguments of social utility. John Lott's arguments in *NY Times*, *Background Checks Are Not the Answer to Gun Violence*, are far from convincing.

By reaffirming the FBI's mandatory background check system for firearms purchases from a federally licensed gun dealer, Lott is giving aid and comfort to gun control advocates.

Lott's not saying the NICS is nothing more than expensive security theater. He's saying *it should be better*. Which opens the door to "common sense" comments like this (from a NYT reader named Howard in LA):

"All processes of checking are subject to 'false positives.' Mr. Lott's argument would mean that no doctor could ever test for any disease or injury, no police force could ever check for outstanding warrants, no mechanic could ever put your car on the computer to see why its engine is losing power, and no terrorists would ever be identified by any agency whatsoever."

Checking Americans to see if they "qualify" to exercise their natural, Constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms is a violation of the Second Amendment. Instead, Lott offers the idea that background checks discriminate against the poor by imposing high fees on private transfers of firearms.

True but — not convincing. Certainly not to *The Times'* well-heeled, over-educated readers. Who must wonder what, exactly, Mr. Lott wants the government to do to "fix" NICS — other than a general admonition to do what they shouldn't be doing in the first place, better.

-- www.thetruthaboutguns Feb. 13, 2018

CIA Warns of Extensive Chinese Operation to Infiltrate American Institutions

By Natalie Johnson Follow

In an unclassified page of a report obtained by the *Washington Free Beacon*, the CIA cautions against efforts by the Chinese Communist Party to provide funding to universities and policy institutes in exchange for academic censorship.

"The CCP provides 'strings-attached' funding to academic institutions and think tanks to deter research that casts it in a negative light," the report says. "It has used this tactic to reward pro-China viewpoints The CCP often denies visas to academics who criticize the regime, encouraging many China scholars to preemptively self-censor so they can maintain access to the country on which their research depends."

Last month FBI Director Christopher Wray said the bureau is investigating Confucius Institutes, the Chinese-backed language and cultural centers hosted by more than 100 universities, 13 of which also host top-secret Pentagon research.

Last month, Sen. Marco Rubio (R., Fla.), who co-chairs the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, called on the five Florida educational institutions that host Confucius Institutes to end those partnerships amid reports that the Chinese government uses the programs to limit discussion on topics the government finds sensitive, such as the Tiananmen Square Massacre or the political status of Tibet.

As of 2016, China's Propaganda Department was spending \$6.8 billion per year to "build an international media apparatus that boosts China's influence," the CIA says. Chinese state-run media outlets operating in the United States employ individuals who spread communist propaganda, seldom register as foreign agents, and sometimes work on behalf of Beijing's intelligence services, according to the report. —*Washington Free Beacon* March 7, 2018

Burglars tried to rob a house, but his neighbors stepped in — now they're in trouble

By Leon Wolf

A California gun owner may be facing criminal charges after he used his weapon to shoot out the tires

in the getaway car of some alleged burglars who were trying to rob his deceased neighbor's home.

According to KCAL-TV, two men were trying to break into a home in Apple Valley, California which had been unoccupied since its owner passed away. A neighbor called 911. Then he went outside and confronted the burglars with a handgun.

In order to prevent the thieves from getting away, the neighbor shot the tires out on the suspects' vehicles, and fired some additional warning shots at the ground.

According to the Victor Valley Sheriff's Department, two suspects have been charged with burglary.

What's next?

The sheriff's department has submitted a report to the San Bernadino County District Attorney's Office for "review and consideration of charges for reckless discharge of a firearm at an uninhabited vehicle."

-- www.theblaze.com/2018/02/06

3 times the mainstream media has denied the existence of no-go zones in Europe

By Chris Tomlinson

For many years, the mainstream media has denied the existence of [Islamic] No Go Zones across various European countries. This is despite heavily migrant populated neighbourhoods turning into areas of high crime and danger for police and public alike.

This week, German Chancellor Angela Merkel shocked the world by admitting that even Germany, which has taken in well over a million migrants since the 2015 migrant crisis, has no-go zones.

Whether they are called no-go zones, vulnerable areas, as in Sweden, or sensitive urban areas (ZUS), as in France, their existence has become undeniable — as documented in *No Go Zones: How Sharia Law is Coming to Neighborhood Near You*, an in-depth book by Breitbart London editor-in-chief Raheem Kassam.

Here are three times the mainstream media has denied the very existence of any no-go areas across Europe:

1. CNN Slammed Republican Bobby Jindal for Mentioning No-Go Zones

In January 2015, then-Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal said he had "heard from folks here that there are neighbourhoods where women don't feel comfortable going in

without veils ... We all know that there are neighbourhoods where police are less likely to go into."

CNN attacked Jindal in an article entitled, "Europeans use lawsuits, laughter to knock down 'no go' claims."

CNN's Laura Akhoun said the Paris area of Belleville, where she grew up, was not a no-go zone.

She did not mention the migrant-populated suburbs of Seine-Saint-Denis famous for rioting and criminality to the point that the courier Chronopost refuses to deliver to certain neighbourhoods in the area, for fear of employees being attacked.

2. Buzzfeed Denied No-Go Zones Exist in Sweden

In January 2017, left-wing website Buzzfeed released an article claiming that no-go zones in Sweden were "a myth". The article claimed that while there are a number of "vulnerable areas" designated by police for their rampant criminality, no-go zones do not exist because they are not "Islamic no-go zones".

Swedish police estimated there to be 61 no-go zones, in suburbs like Rinkeby, Husby, and Tensta in Stockholm and Rosengård in Malmö where a large number, if not a majority, of their residents have a "migration background".

The issue of criminality in the migrant-heavy suburbs has become so bad that Swedish prime minister Stefan Löfven has not ruled out using the military to help police regain control.

3. CNN Attacked the U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands for Mentioning No-Go Zones

In January of this year, CNN's Andrew Kaczynski attacked the U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands Pete Hoekstra for mentioning no-go zones in 2015. In an article on the broadcaster's website, Kaczynski stated flat-out: "There is no evidence to support claims of so-called 'no-go zones' in Europe."

Breitbart London was able to prove that the majority of the claims Hoekstra made were largely correct, including the fact that politicians have been threatened or even killed for having stances against Islamisation and mass migration.

Kaczynski's claims were also ridiculed by Raheem Kassam's book on no-go zones, which are now emerging in the United States as well as Europe.

-- www.breitbart.com 3 March 3, 2018

A Million Parasites for Ireland

By Michael Copeland

"It's our big vision", said Ireland's Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, "for how we want to reshape Ireland over the next two decades." And what is this "big vision"? A mass migration of a million plus over the next 22 years at a cost of €116 billion.

"We want to reshape Ireland," says Mr. Varadkar. Who are the WE? And why does Ireland have to be "reshaped"? Did the Irish vote for that? Are they going to be cajoled and browbeaten with upbeat spin to "celebrate" being "reshaped". Will they be told, Merkel-style, "We can do it!"? Will they be shamed, Cameron-style, for being "too many white Christian faces"? Will they be instructed, Sarkozy-style, that they HAVE TO make mixed-race marriages?

A former Irish Attorney-General, Peter Sutherland, set out, in bullying manner, his views:

"The days of hiding behind borders and fences are long gone. We have to work together and cooperate together to make a better world. ...States have to become more open states, in terms of the people who inhabit them;... sovereignty is an illusion... sovereignty is an absolute illusion that has to be put behind us."

Sutherland ran the deceptively named UN "Global Forum for Migration and Development". "Development", of course, also covers population replacement: that is, after all, a form of development.

In Sutherland's view the "EU should be doing its best to underminea sense of homogeneity and difference from others..." This is nation-destruction.

No deal. "We want to reshape Ireland" is an appalling and dishonest metaphor that disguises nation-breaking, and dresses it up as a wonderful shared "big vision". This is Population Replacement — you know, otherwise called Ethnic Cleansing. The luckless taxpayers of recently bankrupt Eire will have to pay not only to be colonized by their replacements, but to maintain these cleansers for years and years on welfare. At the same time they will be browbeaten to permit polygamy, child marriage, genital mutilation, and niqab oppression on the spurious grounds of "religious tolerance". Sexual violence against women and children will drive them to shrink inside their homes, not use swimming pools, and refrain from attending music festivals, while thuggery will carve out the familiar no-go zones that the

mainstream media frantically deny. That is how Sharia is inflicted *de facto*, by subterfuge and violence, without any debate, and without any Act of Parliament. This has been the pattern in Germany, France and the UK. The precedent is there. See it.

The mass migration will be of a MILLION foreigners, such as from Africa, the Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan. They will very likely be illiterate, and not speak English or have employable qualifications. If the UN, who choose who will migrate, has anything to do with it, the new arrivals will be mostly Muslim. They will not swiftly join the productive workforce. Experience from Germany and Sweden shows that they find they are quite comfortable on welfare, which includes payments to polygamous wives and their children. If they are awarded citizenship — the presumed intention — they will be entitled to family reunification, and each can bring in several further relations. One million will turn into three and a half million, and that against the Irish population of 4.7 million. Ireland will be destroyed. Look at Malmö. Look at Rinkeby. Look at Seine-Saint-Denis. Look at Örebro. Look at Marseilles. Look at Molenbeek.

This is an indefensible strategy for Ireland, a self-inflicted man-made catastrophe.

Irish people, galvanise yourselves! Do not let your culture, your music, your genetic inheritance, your pubs and festivals be overrun, destroyed and squandered.

-- gatesofvienna.net/2018/02/27

At the siege of Vienna of 1683 Islam seemed poised to overrun Christian Europe. We are now in a new phase of a very old war.

Leo Eric Varadkar is the first Irish government Minister of Indian heritage. During the 2015 same-sex marriage referendum, he became the first openly gay Irish government Minister. — Wikipedia

This smartphone cuts off your camera and microphone so no one can spy on you

By Arjun Kharpal

Cybersecurity firm DarkMatter has launched its first smartphone, designed to stop spy agencies listening to you.

An Android device called Katim, it was made available commercially Monday at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, and has a 5.2-inch display, as well as a high level of encryption.

One security feature is called "shield mode," which disconnects power from the microphone and camera on the device so that nobody can spy on your conversations.

"If you are to enter a secure meeting or a very confidential meeting ...you always tend to find people leaving their phone outside the meeting," Faisal Al Bannai, CEO of DarkMatter, told CNBC.

"It's because you can't trust that no super agencies are able to turn on that mic while you are sitting in the room."

"The shield mode button will physically disconnect the power from the mic and camera, which means unless that super agency has a way of physically shifting that button back, there is no way that mic is turning on and listening to what you're saying," Al Bannai said.

Privacy and spying via devices was thrust into the spotlight in 2016 when a photo emerged showing that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg tapes up the webcam of his laptop.

-- Updated 11:52 AM ET Thu, 1 March 2018 CNBC.com

In this American town, guns are required by law

By Omar Jimenez

As the debate over guns continues in Washington and in communities across the country, there's at least one place where owning a gun is technically required by law. In Kennesaw, Georgia, local law says that "every head of household residing in the city limits is required to maintain a firearm."

"If you're going to commit a crime in Kennesaw -- are you going to take a chance that that homeowner is a law-abiding citizen?" asked Kennesaw Mayor Derek Easterling.

Wayne Arnold is one of those citizens. Among the weapons he keeps at home are an AR-15-style .223 caliber rifle, a variety of handguns and more.

"It gives me the ability to protect myself as opposed to being somewhere where you weren't allowed to have a firearm or it was frowned upon," said Arnold.

It may be the law in Kennesaw to own a gun, but the police department says it isn't actually enforced.

The law was enacted in 1982. "It was meant to be kind of a crime deterrent," said Lt. Craig Graydon. "It was also more or less a political statement because the city of Morton Grove, Illinois, passed a city ordinance

banning handguns from their city limits."

Back then, the town had a population of just a few thousand.

Today, Kennesaw, a town of about 33,000 people, has had one murder in the last six years and a violent crime rate of below 2%.

But it's unclear whether that has anything to do with the gun law.

City officials say their relationship with the community is a key factor in maintaining public safety. "We can't say that just that gun law contributes x number of percent to why we have a low crime rate. It may be part of it, but it needs to be looked at from a whole picture," said Graydon. "Don't just look at the ordinance."

As communities across the country re-examine their own relationship with guns in the wake of recent mass shootings, officials say they have been getting calls from all over the country -- and even as far away as Norway -- inquiring about the town's gun law.

"People kind of get the image that it's the Wild West, where everybody walks around with a firearm strapped to their side, and it's not like that," Arnold said. "It's strictly a home defense system type of deal. There's no shootouts down the street." -- CNN March 7, 2018

Why Can't We Be Like France? How the Right to Bear Arms Got Left Out of the Declaration of Rights and How Gun Registration Was Decreed Just In Time for The Nazi Occupation

By Stephen P. Halbrook

Should the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution be watered down to protect little if any right of the people to keep and bear arms in accordance with European models? Disregarding that the United States won its Revolution based on that very right, recent statements made by Supreme Court Justices suggest they believe so.

Part I of this Article discusses four opinions in which Supreme Court Justices opined inconsistently using the experiences of European countries as models in construing the meaning of firearms laws and determining their constitutionality under the Second, Tenth, and Fourteenth Amendments. This same debate has been played out in Congress, where registration of firearms, supported by arguments in

support of European models, has been rejected.

Part II traces the debate from the beginning of World War II in 1941 through passage of three major firearm laws in 1968, 1986, and 1993. A guarantee of the equivalent of America's Second Amendment was considered but not adopted by the French National Assembly in the French Declaration of Rights of 1789.

As discussed in Part III, Third Estate bodies throughout France demanded that commoners have a right to possess arms, while the nobility sought continuation of their traditional monopoly of arms. Without recognition of this right, the French government of Prime Minister Pierre Laval easily decreed the registration of firearms and firearm owners in 1935.

As Part IV notes, Laval would later become the chief architect of collaboration with Nazi Germany. When Nazi Germany occupied France beginning in 1940, it relied on the French police and its own military might to confiscate firearms and to subject gun owners to the death penalty.

Part V traces how the police could use the firearm registration records to ferret out gun owners, evolving Nazi policies for both amnesties and executions to enforce the gun ban, and how uncertainty regarding who refused to surrender firearms made it less secure for the Nazis. This experience exemplifies America's Second Amendment as a "doomsday provision," as Judge Kozinski articulated.

As Part VI concludes, advocates of watering down the Second Amendment by looking to foreign experiences would do well to consider France's tragic history. -- Fordham Urb. L.J. Vol. XXXIX. Pp. 1637-94 April 22, 2013

Study: Each Resettled Refugee Costs Taxpayers \$15,900 a Year

The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), a pro-American immigration think tank, issued a study Monday showing a strikingly high price tag for resettling refugees in the United States.

When they combined resettlement costs with Medicaid, Food Stamps, public education, public housing, and a bevy of other government programs and benefits, the study's authors, Matthew O'Brien and Spencer Raley arrived at a figure of \$79,600 in taxpayer costs for the first five years of an average refugee's stay

in the U.S., which annualizes to \$15,900.

The authors write: It is important to note that this analysis does not address the costs associated with any incurred national security and law enforcement costs...which are hard to quantify.

Many refugees do work and contribute to the American economy after resettlement.

The FAIR study's authors suggest pessimism as to refugees' ability to offset their welfare burden in the short-term. "According to [the Office of Refugee Resettlement] ORR, refugees' earnings are meager throughout their first five years in the U.S., increasing from \$10.22/hour to \$10.86/ hour – only a 6.3 percent increase over five years, on average," they explain.

Unlike other types of immigration, refugee resettlement is an explicitly humanitarian endeavor. Refugee policy has never been based on a purely fiscal calculation.

"Reflecting America's long tradition of providing refuge to the oppressed, we have admitted over 3.5 million people since 1980 and 96,900 refugees in 2016," reads the study's summary, concluding: "We continue to admit refugees at a rate of roughly 50,000 to 100,000 refugees per year and 20,000-50,000 political asylees per year. Most of this cohort arrives here without financial resources and possessing few marketable job skills. And the American taxpayer is being asked to feed, clothe and shelter them, in addition to funding job training programs."

The FAIR study's findings largely comport with the 2015 results of another pro-American immigration reform group, the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS). At that time, CIS found a figure \$64,370 per Middle Eastern refugee during the first five years of resettlement. -- www.breitbart.com 6 Feb 2018

Total Gun Confiscation Is on the Horizon – Here's Why

By Pat McLene

Has anyone noticed how common it is these days that House and Senate bills all have both a Republican and Democrat cosponsor? I'm guessing this is supposed to make us think the proposed legislation must be fair and balanced.

Such is the case with the latest boondoggle entitled "The Federal Extreme Risk Protection Act" put forward by Sen. Graham (R) and Sen.

Blumenthal (D). The title must have been created by some kind of phony-baloney title-writing staff. (Of course, if you read it the right way i.e., an act to protect the federal government from extreme risk, it makes perfect sense.)

Unfortunately, I have been unable to see the actual text of the bill. That means that I am forced to depend upon their description of it.

This bill may be attempting to standardize gun violence protection orders (GVPO) that are becoming popular state governance tools.

Note that the standard GVPO request can be filed by immediate family members. Also note, an "immediate family member" can include (per statute) spouses (current or former), cohabitating couples, custodians, children, parents, siblings, and persons in a current or former dating relationship. (My, how your immediate family has grown!) Also note, after an individual has become restrained by such an order, if he wishes to have it removed he must *prove* to the court that he no longer poses a serious threat of causing injury to himself or others. Kind of makes you wonder how you prove a negative, huh?

There can be no doubt GVPOs are a massive violation of the Constitution and are in direct opposition to your rights as defined by the 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th Amendments. But apparently, the "for the children" clause trumps all of those.

In a press meeting with fellow traveler Graham, Senator Blumenthal addressed their brave new bill and stated, "We know these laws work." He refers, I assume, to the fact that state governments have successfully used GVPOs to separate gun owners from their constitutionally guaranteed rights.

While I will continue to tell you that you need to join any and all gun rights organizations, to pepper your legislators with instructions and dire political warnings, and attend freedom rallies, nevertheless prudence suggests you take a more proactive stand closer to home. Head for the closest gun show and purchase some weapons and ammo – while you still can – from private parties. If your state has already closed that loophole, head to a gun show located out of state. Then with all the OPSEC you can muster, hide those newly acquired guns and ancillary ammunition where they won't be found.

Am I paranoid? No. I'm a student of history. You should be one too. Because columns like this will someday become a crime and evidence of instability sufficient to deny

me my God-given rights. And reading this will place you in the same category. Get prepared.

-- www.wnd.com March 13, 2018

50 years on from Paul Ehrlich's *The Population Bomb*: So how come we're not all dead, yet?

By James Delingpole

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Paul Ehrlich's eco-doom bestseller *The Population Bomb*. Maybe we should all stage a mass die-in to spare the distinguished Stanford biology professor his embarrassment.

Ehrlich should be embarrassed. His book sold over three million copies and turned him into an academic rock star. At age 85 he is still Bing Professor of Population Studies at Stanford.

The Population Bomb was not only wrong but demonstrably wrong.

His book claimed: "The battle to feed humanity is over. In the 1970s and 1980s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now. At this late date nothing can prevent a substantial increase in the world death rate."

Like most of the things he predicted, it didn't actually transpire.

Nor did the average age of death in the U.S. by 1980 fall to 42 years old.

Nor – yet – have ocean levels risen by 250 feet.

Nor yet – though he might be closer to the mark here – are we in the midst of a 'new ice age.'

As Nicholas Vardy notes in this essay for the Oxford Club, Ehrlich's 'population bomb' theory was a fail for the same reasons Thomas Malthus's 1798 *An Essay on the Principle of Population* was a fail: "Human ingenuity has always been successful in overcoming crises that once seemed inevitable."

Ehrlich's promised mass-starvation in "overpopulated" countries like India, for example, was foiled by the Green Revolution of the great

American agronomist Norman Borlaug. Borlaug's experiments with crop mutations dramatically increased productivity, enabling India and its neighbors to feed a population which Ehrlich had predicted would starve.

You'll find more details either in my book *Watermelons* or in Matt Ridley's superb (and very cheering) *The Rational Optimist*.

-- www.breitbart.com/2018/01/17

"If I can write a nation's economics textbooks"

Paul Samuelson, the Nobel-winning Keynesian economist who wrote the most widely distributed economics textbook in American history, once said: "I don't care who writes a nation's laws or crafts its advanced treatises – if I can write its economics textbooks."

That's quite an admission, considering that Samuelson was pushing an agenda hostile to free enterprise. He taught that big government was needed for economic stability, that growing government would stimulate more economic growth than tax cuts, and that heavily taxing the wealthy would not affect their ability or willingness to work.

These are toxic, very expensive errors. And yet Samuelson's textbook remains the single greatest influence on generations of American economic students, selling over 4 million copies in over 40 languages since it was first published in 1948.

That's why the Moving Picture Institute has created *FISH: How an Economy Grows*, an animated video series that introduces high-school students to free-market economics.

FISH brings "the dismal science" to life, making it exciting and accessible to young people.

I invite you to see *FISH* for yourself at FishEconomics.org.

-- Fund raising appeal from the Moving Picture Institute March, 2018

US military eyes futuristic 'bionic arm' for troops

By Allison Barrie

Will future soldiers be kitted up with a futuristic exoskeleton-style arm?

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory has been working on a bionic arm – not one that a soldier puts his arm inside to operate, but instead, an entire additional hi-tech "Third Arm."

This new arm can already carry current weapons by transferring the weapon's weight from the soldiers' arms to their torsos. But the Third Arm will not be shooting any weapons at this time – the goal of this project is different.

The arm could help make carrying a weapon as comfortable as possible and even carry, for example, the mighty 85-pound M2 .50 cal.

The military has been exploring new ways to integrate M2s into missions. One option could be to mount it on a robotic ground drone following the team like a dog, but another could be "the third arm."

If a soldier could easily carry an M2, then the power would be right in his hands to not just destroy enemy aircraft but potentially take out light armored enemy vehicles, for example.

The arm is compatible with the M4 carbine and the Squad Automatic Weapon or "SAW."

The ARL is looking at the Third Arm carrying a shield that would provide an additional layer of protection.

Currently, the Third Arm weighs about 3.5 pounds. Compatible with the tactical vest, it attaches to the soldier's back to offload the weight. In the front, the arm itself connects to the Picatinny rail on a weapon. It can attach on either the left or right side.

The ARL team will be working on solutions to ensure this device is rugged enough to withstand combat life and compatible with all sorts of realistic scenarios downrange.

-- www.foxnews.com/2018/03/18

NJM, P.O. Box 10176, Trenton New Jersey 08650

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Back issues, from 1997 to date, can be found online. Just go to: <https://archive.org/> and in the Search Field, type in "New Jersey Militia Newsletter". So grab the PDFs and pass them around via email to others who have never seen the hard copies.

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